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AFS SMOKEJUMPERS BEGIN PARACHUTE OPEATIONS

PILOTS IN AREA ADVISED TO AVOID AREAS WHILE JUMPS TAKE PLACE

FAIRBANKS, AK—Smokejumpers from the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service will be conducting parachute training jumps starting today through the end of May in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

During the period, parachute jumps will be made into three areas near Fairbanks—over Birch Hill—near Chena Hot Springs Road just north of Birch Hill—and in the Chena Lakes Recreation Area.

Pilots are advised to check the “Notices to Airmen” for information about smokejumper aircraft—and avoid flying over the areas while jumps are taking place. For more information telephone Alaska Fire Service Smokejumper Operations at (907) 356-5515.

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The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service provides: wildland fire suppression services for all Department of the Interior and Native Corporation lands in Alaska and assists those entities with other fire management activities, including: guidance and interpretation of fire policy for BLM Alaska; and management of the BLM Alaska aviation program. In addition to fire suppression missions, AFS also conducts prescribed fires in accordance with various partner agreements.